

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A composition for use as a test meal in measuring total dietary fat absorption by the digestive tract of a subject, comprising a predetermined amount of dietary fat and ~~a predetermined amount of a marker comprising a non-absorbable fat~~ consisting of a predetermined amount of sucrose polyester comprising sucrose behenate.
2. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 1, comprising ~~wherein the non-absorbable fat comprises~~ sucrose polyester at up to 50% of the total of dietary fat and sucrose polyester, and ~~preferably comprises~~ sucrose behenate at up to 20% of the dietary fat test meal, ~~more preferably 0.1 to 10%, by weight.~~
3. (currently amended) The composition according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ 5 to 60% dietary fat, and further comprising 1 to 25% protein, and 5 to 60% carbohydrate, by weight.
4. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising a colorant, ~~preferably selected from the group consisting of bromophenol blue, cresol green, beta-carotene, and carmine red,~~ in a quantity sufficient to change the color of a ~~[[the]]~~ fecal matter produced by the subject from the test meal, such that a ~~[[the]]~~ sample of the fecal matter collected from the subject is colored according to the colorant used.
5. (currently amended) A method for measuring total dietary fat absorption by the digestive tract of a subject, useful for diagnostic testing for diagnosing malabsorption of dietary fat by the digestive tract of the subject, and impairment of dietary fat digestion in the subject, comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a test meal, ~~preferably in liquid form,~~ for consumption, comprising an amount of dietary fat, ~~preferably about 5 to 60% by weight,~~ and an amount of a

marker ~~comprising a non-absorbable fat~~ consisting of sucrose polyester comprising sucrose behenate,

- b. administering ingestion of the test meal by a ~~[[the]]~~ subject under diagnosis for malabsorption of dietary fat by the digestive tract of the subject or an impairment of dietary fat digestion in the subject,
- c. collecting a sample of fecal matter from the subject at an interval following ingestion of said test meal,
- d. measuring the amount of the dietary fat and the amount of the sucrose polyester ~~non-absorbable fat marker~~ recovered in the fecal sample, and
- e. calculating the amount of dietary fat recovered from the test meal to determine the amount of dietary fat that was absorbed by the digestive tract of the subject.

6. (original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the provided test meal further comprises about 1 to 25% protein, and about 5 to 60% carbohydrate, by weight.

7. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the sucrose polyester ~~non-absorbable fat~~ in the provided test meal comprises sucrose behenate at up to 20%, ~~preferably 0.1% to 10%~~, by weight of the dietary fattest meal.

8. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the collecting step comprises collecting the sample of the fecal matter during the day following ingestion of said test meal, ~~and preferably~~ or during each of the two consecutive days following ingestion of the test meal.

9. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the test meal further comprises a colorant, ~~preferably selected from the group consisting of bromophenol blue, cresol green, beta-carotene, and carmine red~~, in a quantity sufficient to change the color of the fecal matter produced from the test meal, such that the sample collected from the subject is colored according to the colorant used.

10. (canceled)

11. (new) The composition according to Claim 2 wherein the sucrose behenate is 0.1 to 10% by weight of the total of dietary fat and sucrose polyester.
12. (new) The composition according to Claim 4 wherein the colorant is selected from the group consisting of bromophenol blue, cresol green, beta-carotene, and carmine red, and mixtures thereof.
13. (new) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the sucrose polyester consists of sucrose behenate.
14. (new) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the step of measuring the amount of sucrose polyester consists of measuring the amount of sucrose behenate in the fecal sample.
15. (new) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the step of measuring the amount of sucrose polyester consists of measuring the amount of sucrose behenate in the fecal sample.
16. (new) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the test meal is in liquid form.
17. (new) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the test meal comprises 5 to 60% dietary fat, by weight.
18. (new) The method according to Claim 7 wherein the provided test meal comprises 0.1% to 10% sucrose behenate by weight of the dietary fat.
19. (new) The method according to Claim 18 wherein the test meal further comprises a colorant, in a quantity sufficient to change the color of the fecal matter produced from the test meal, such that the sample collected from the subject is colored according to the colorant used.
20. (new) The method according to Claim 9 wherein the colorant is selected from the group consisting of bromophenol blue, cresol green, beta-carotene, and carmine red, and mixtures thereof.